

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1

By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Gordon Connell, McCallie School wrestling head coach, upon winning the World Championship Senior Division freestyle title in the 56 and older division at 67 kilos.

WHEREAS, wrestling is a demanding sport, requiring superb physical conditioning, great agility and quickness, and finely tuned reflexes; an elite few become high school champions, fewer still win national medals at any level, and a miniscule percentage rise to the summit to win world wrestling titles; and

WHEREAS, one citizen of Tennessee who has reached the rarified pinnacle of wrestling is McCallie School head wrestling coach Gordon Connell who, as a 132 pound teenager at Brainerd School in Chattanooga, gave Brainerd its first state wrestling champion in 1966; thirty-five years later, in 2001, he was victorious in the U.S. veteran nationals; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2004 Coach Connell won the veterans world freestyle title for the 56 years and older division at the 67 kilo weight class at Hradec Karlove, Czech Republic; on his way to the title, Connell won four straight matches, including a tight 3-2 win over Johan Sweirkot of Germany in the semi-finals, and culminating in his 4-1 overtime win over Magomed Badrunov of Russia in the championship match; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Connell is also a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and boasts a record of 14 state team titles at Hixon and McCallie on his coaching resume; he has acquired at least one championship in five consecutive decades, a remarkable feat in his highly competitive sport; and

WHEREAS, although Coach Connell has left his competitive wrestling shoes in the middle of the mat to signify his retirement from competition, he still continues to train and coach teens to compete for state championships and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Connell's remarkable wrestling career, both as a competitor and a coach, is worthy of our acknowledgement and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate McCallie School head wrestling coach Gordon Connell upon his recent winning of the World Senior (56 and older) Division Freestyle Wrestling Championship in the 67 kilo weight class.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend him for his stellar career both as a competitor and as a coach, and offer him our thanks for his contributions to the youth of our state as a molder of character, as well as our best wishes for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.